

Amendment to the Claims:

The claims under examination in this application, including their current status and changes made in this paper, are respectfully presented.

1 (currently amended). A method for operating a camera, comprising the steps of:
~~waiting for responsive to an operator action, and responding to the operator action by:~~ detecting and evaluating information from a scene;
evaluating the detected information relative to a human facial characteristic and a specified criteria;
continuing the detecting and evaluating steps; and
~~in a continuing manner until a point in time at which it is determined responsive~~
to the evaluating step determining that the information from the scene includes information ~~which that~~ is representative of a human facial characteristic and ~~which that~~ satisfies a specified criteria, ; and recording an image of the scene ~~corresponding substantially to the point in time.~~

2 (original). A method according to Claim 1, wherein said detecting step includes the step of detecting an image of radiation from the scene which includes the information representative of a facial characteristic.

3 (original). A method according to Claim 2, wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying in the image of radiation at least one pattern representative of a face, and evaluating the pattern relative to the specified criteria.

4 (original). A method according to Claim 3, wherein the specified criteria includes a size limit criteria, and wherein said evaluating step includes the step of rejecting each identified pattern which is representative of a face but which fails to satisfy the size limit criteria.

5 (original). A method according to Claim 2, wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying in the image of radiation a plurality of patterns each representative of a respective face, and evaluating each such detected pattern relative to the specified criteria.

6 (original). A method according to Claim 2, wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying in the image of radiation a plurality of patterns each representative of a respective face, thereafter using a further criteria to select a subset of the patterns, and then evaluating only the selected patterns in the subset relative to the specified criteria.

7 (currently amended). A method ~~according to Claim 6, wherein the further criteria includes a specified number, and wherein said step of using the further criteria includes the step of for operating a camera, comprising the steps of waiting for an operator action, and responding to the operator action by:~~

detecting and evaluating information from a scene, the information comprising an image of radiation from the scene;

evaluating the detected information by:

identifying, in the image of radiation, a plurality of patterns each representative of a respective face;

then selecting for the a subset a group of the patterns equal in number to a the specified number; and

then evaluating only the selected patterns in the subset relative to a human facial characteristic and a specified criteria;

wherein the detecting and evaluating steps are performed in a continuing manner until a point in time at which it is determined that the information from the scene includes information which that is representative of a the human facial characteristic and which that satisfies a the specified criteria; and

recording an image of the scene corresponding substantially to the point in time.

8 (currently amended). A method according to Claim 7, wherein the ~~further criteria includes a prioritization criteria, and wherein said step of using the further criteria includes the selecting step of using the also uses a prioritization criteria to effect the selection of the group of patterns in select the subset.~~

9 (original). A method according to Claim 1, wherein the specified criteria is whether an eye is open, and wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying at least one eye in the information from the scene, and analyzing whether each such identified eye is open.

10 (original). A method according to Claim 1, wherein the specified criteria is whether a mouth is closed, and wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying at least one mouth in the information from the scene, and analyzing whether each such identified mouth is closed.

11 (original). A method according to Claim 1, wherein the specified criteria is whether a face is oriented toward the camera, and wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying at least one face in the information from the scene, and analyzing whether each such identified face is oriented to face substantially toward the camera.

12 (original). A method according to Claim 1, wherein said detecting step includes the step of detecting audible sound from the scene, the information representative of the facial characteristic being embodied in the detected audible sound.

13 (original). A method according to Claim 12, wherein said evaluating step includes the step of determining whether the detected audible sound is representative of a predetermined word.

14 (original). A method according to Claim 12, wherein said evaluating step includes the step of evaluating whether the detected audible sound is representative of laughter.

15 (currently amended). A camera, comprising:
an operator actuatable element;
an image detector;
a memory for storing digital images; and
a section which control circuit, coupled to the operator actuatable element and to the image detector, and comprising:
a memory for storing digital images; and

a processor, for controlling the image detector to detect information from a scene responsive is operative to wait for operator actuation of the element, and which is operative to respond to operator actuation of the element by: detecting and evaluating information from a scene, for evaluating the detected information relative to a human facial characteristic and a specified criteria, and for, in a continuing manner until a point in time at which it is determined responsive to the evaluating step determining that the information from the scene includes information which that is representative of a human facial characteristic and which that satisfies a specified criteria, and recording an image of the scene corresponding substantially to the point in time in the memory.

16 (currently amended). A camera according to Claim 15, wherein said ~~section is operative to effect the detection of the information from the scene by detecting~~ image detector detects an image of radiation from the scene.

17 (currently amended). A camera according to Claim 15, wherein said ~~section is operative to effect the detection of information from the scene by further comprising:~~
a microphone, coupled to the control circuit, for detecting audible sounds from the scene.

18 (original). A camera according to Claim 15, wherein the facial characteristic is an eye, and the specified criteria is whether the eye is open.

19 (original). A camera according to Claim 15, wherein the facial characteristic is a mouth, and the specified criteria is whether the mouth is closed.

20 (original). A camera according to Claim 15, wherein the specified criteria is whether a face associated with the facial characteristic is oriented to face substantially toward the camera.